

Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge Newsletter



November 2016

Thank you to our dedicated Volunteers



Above: Our Volunteers enjoying a catered dinner

On November 9, 2016, refuge staff held a volunteer recognition dinner at the Hotel Cape Charles to thank our dedicated volunteers. Volunteers enjoyed a

catered dinner prepared by Hook U-up gourmet.

Each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation and a gift bag filled with goodies.

Anitra Firmenich, our refuge manager, provided some refuge updates and thanked each volunteer for their many hours of dedicated service in the areas of visitor services, interpretation, special projects, biology and maintenance. An open dialogue session followed

the dinner, which allowed for idea sharing and positive commentary. We are glad that our volunteers share the same enthusiasm and commitment to environmental stewardship that we do.

A big and heart felt thank you to the 19 volunteers who attended, and we look forward to your contributions to our refuge!

Second Beach Cleanup

On Sunday, November 6, 2016, Fisherman Island NWR welcomed Girl Scout Troop #176 from Norfolk, Virginia for another much needed beach cleanup. The volunteers took a tour of the visitor center and refuge before heading to

the southern beach. The group pulled off large and small pieces of marine debris, and many pieces of derelict fishing gear. The group pulled off enough debris to fill four of our refuge pickup trucks before the incoming tide arrived. Each girl scout also completed the junior refuge manager and junior birder booklets to earn the patches. The group received several hours of community service work towards a merit badge that day.



FoodBank Drive

Now through December 18, 2016, our refuge will be collecting canned and non-perishable food items for the FoodBank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. This is the first time that our refuge has hosted such an event, and this local non-profit is excited to be working with us. We hope to deliver a full collection barrel right before Christmas to the FoodBank in Onley to help families in need

About the Refuge

Situated at the tip of the Delmarva Peninsula, the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge serves as one of the country's most valuable stopovers for migratory birds. Refuge woodlands and fields provide homes for Carolina chickadees, Carolina wrens and several species of owl and woodpeckers, along with thirty-four species of mammals. The 1,123 acre refuge was established in 1984 for migratory and endangered species management and for wildlife dependent recreation, interpretation and education.

in the area. Donations can be dropped off in the collection barrel located in our visitor center on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00am-2:00pm.



Joe Woodward's 7th season!

Newlyweds, Midge Franco and Joseph (Joe) Woodward, have completed Joe's seventh season at our refuge! Joe usually arrives in time for the Cape Charles 4th of July Parade and stays through to Birding and Wildlife Festival.

Joe has volunteered in the visitor center, has participated in the Fisherman Island NWR tours and has been in key player in our diverse educational endeavors. Joe has accumulated

approximately 3500 volunteer hours with us. He has also volunteered for several springs at Muscatatuck NWR in Indiana.

Joe is a retired Marine and high school math teacher. Midge has recently retired from her position in the human resources department where Joe taught. Joe was stationed in Oahu, Hawaii for a few years, and they both wish all a fond Aloha . Thank you Joe and Midge!

ODU Trip....



On Saturday, November 12, 2016, our refuge hosted a special Geology themed tour from Old Dominion University! All 25 slots were filled for this tour, including students, a PhD candidate and two professors from their Earth Sciences Program.

Three of our dedicated volunteers were on hand for this tour, and the students took copious notes and asked a plethora of questions. The tour concluded with a trip to Fisherman Island to see sediment in the marshes, look at the beach sand dunes, and a brief lecture.

This was a wonderful outreach opportunity for the refuge to host a major urban university, and the students enjoyed the trip.



Above: Heritage Hunt Photography Club members

At the conclusion of the tour, Park Ranger Max Lonzanida gave some insight to careers within the USFWS and shared his experiences with the group while completing his undergraduate studies at Old Dominion University.

Special visit...

On November 3, 2016, the refuge hosted the Heritage Hunt Photography Club from Gainesville, Virginia. This group consisted of active seniors, aged 55 and above, for a very special tour. The group previously toured Chincoteague NWR, and was convinced into making this special trip. They toured the refuge, marsh and bunker overlooks, Winslow Gun Battery, the boat ramp and finally concluded on Fisherman Island. They have already decided to visit again in the Spring!

Excerpts from Monitoring Marine Debris in Virginia's Coastal Zone interim report, released 09/2016



Marine debris at the FINWR site.

Four study sites: Fisherman Island NWR, Chincoteague NWR, Back Bay NWR and Grand View Nature Preserve

30 months of monitoring specific at each site, from 2014 through 09/2016

Most debris consisted of cigarette butts, balloons with ribbons, plastics, and derelict fishing gear

51% of the debris found, and the vast majority was located on Fisherman Island NWR compared to other survey sites

For more information:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Eastern_Shore_of_Virginia/

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Our mission:

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.